

What is claimed is:

1. An automatic photography system comprising:

a photographing portion; and

a control portion comprising:

5 a shape extracting means, for repeatedly extracting shapes that represent expressions of human subjects within images, which are being imaged by the photographing portion; a match calculating means for recording predetermined shapes in advance, and for sequentially calculating the 10 degrees of match between the extracted shapes and the predetermined shapes; and

a control means for controlling the photographing portion to photograph the subjects when the calculated degrees of match exceed a predetermined threshold value.

15 2. An automatic photography system as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the predetermined threshold value is decreased according to an increase in the number of shape extractions.

3. An automatic photography system as defined in claim 20 2, wherein:

the control portion further comprises:

an identifying data receiving means, for receiving identifying data, transmitted from the subjects, that identifies the subjects; and

25 a memory means for recording predetermined threshold values corresponding to the identifying data of the subjects

received by the identifying data receiving means; wherein:

the control means controls the photographing portion based on the predetermined threshold values which are recorded in the memory means, corresponding to the received identifying

5 data.

4. An automatic photography system comprising:

a photographing portion; and

a control portion comprising:

a shape extracting means, for repeatedly extracting

10 shapes that represent poses of subjects within images, which are being imaged by the photographing portion;

a match calculating means for recording predetermined shapes in advance, and for sequentially calculating the degrees of match between the extracted shapes and the

15 predetermined shapes; and

a control means for controlling the photographing portion to photograph the subjects when the calculated degrees of match exceed a predetermined threshold value.

5. An automatic photography system as defined in claim

20 4, wherein:

the predetermined threshold value is decreased according to an increase in the number of shape extractions.

6. An automatic photography system as defined in claim

5, wherein:

25 the control portion further comprises:

an identifying data receiving means, for receiving

identifying data, transmitted from the subjects, that identifies the subjects; and

a memory means for recording predetermined threshold values corresponding to the identifying data of the subjects

5 received by the identifying data receiving means; wherein:

the control means controls the photographing portion based on the predetermined threshold values which are recorded in the memory means, corresponding to the received identifying data.